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Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

India, Senegal and United States of America: draft resolution

Special assistance to Central and East African countries receiving refugees, returnees and displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/24 of 2 December 1994 and 52/169 B of 16 December 1997,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Deeply concerned about the ongoing conflicts in the Great Lakes region, which pose a serious threat to regional peace and security, and by the flow of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons as a result of those conflicts,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Also deeply concerned about the plight of refugee children, in particular the problem of unaccompanied minors, and emphasizing the need for their protection, well-being and reunification with their families,

Also bearing in mind the evident impact of the flow of refugees on the basic infrastructure, the environment and the life and property of local populations in the host countries,

Recognizing that the Central and East African countries receiving refugees, most of them least developed countries, continue to experience an extremely critical economic situation,

Deeply concerned about the grave consequences this has entailed for the capability of Central and East African countries to build their economies,

[1] A/53/292.

Noting with great concern that, despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Central and East Africa remains precarious and unsolved,

Aware of the need to improve the security situation in the region, particularly in the border areas, for the safety of the refugees, the local community and personnel involved in humanitarian activities,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive to an early and sustainable solution to the flow of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to the Central and East African countries which have received refugees for the sacrifices they are making in granting refuge and hospitality to them,

Observing that the humanitarian aid dispatched should as far as possible take into consideration the scale of the needs of the local populations,

Stressing the need to continue providing special assistance to the local populations of the countries receiving refugees,

1. *Again congratulates* the Secretary-General for the efforts he has made to draw the attention of the international community to the situation of refugees in the Central and East African countries;

2. *Again expresses its gratitude* to all States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have done so for the financial, technical and material assistance they have been delivering to those countries that have been receiving refugees since the onset of the crisis and for the humanitarian assistance they have continued to render to refugees and the host countries, and calls upon them to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and social infrastructure in areas affected by the presence of refugees and to facilitate the restoration of the basic services destroyed in those host countries;

3. *Appeals* to the international community to assist in the search for durable solutions for African refugees, including voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement in third countries;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system and to continue to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Central and East Africa;

5. *Again urges* the Governments of the region and all concerned parties to provide protection as well as safe and unhindered access for United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to the populations in need in all areas of the region, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, voluntary repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the follow-up to the present resolution, with a view to continuing discussions under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".